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It was Schumacher himself who asked Ernst Reuter, shortly after the war was ended, to come back to Germany from Turkey. He was convinced that Reuter would appreciate this call - after all, he was not one of the oldest veterans but a former Communist and he also had not distinguished himself through illegal party activities or concentration camps. So Schumacher is personally disappointed that Reuter does not show the loyalty he had expected. Especially after Reuter was officially confirmed as Oberbürgermeister, he has almost ostentatively neglected his connection with the party bosses both in Berlin and in Hanover, including Schumacher. He did not go to Schumacher and report on his trips to London and New York. When he was asked to do so before an assembly of party leaders he spoke so vaguely that Carlo Schmid interrupted him and said he knew all this from the papers, what he wanted to hear was something specific. To this, Reuter replied that some of his discussions had been confidential and he did not feel that he should talk about them. When he went to Bonn for the last meeting of the Parli Rat, he went by car and stayed overnight in Hanover two times without going to see Schumacher. I asked Scholz why the party boss did not simply have his underling report to him, the party discipline being as strict as it is in the SPD. Scholz replied that Schumacher wants Reuter to come by himself and without orders. But he is probably not going to wait indefinitely and Reuter does not seem to realize that he is undermining his own position. It is true that the SPD does not abound with intelligent men, especially not in Berlin, and does not want a new Ostrowski-crisis but Reuter overestimates this factor. The number of his opponents within his own party is

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growing steadily, as I heard from Dr. Grunner, since the last elections in May member of the Landesvorstand Berlin of the SPD. Scholz, for one, is enjoying to make life hard for him - he feels almost personally offended by Reuter's lack of loyalty towards Schumacher. In the last meeting of the Stadtverordneten, Scholz was the only one who detected that the Oberbürgermeister was given authority in the draft of the new Bannmeilengesetz for Berlin, instead of the Stadtverordnetenvorsteher. He declared that he would resign as Stadtverordneter if this draft was accepted, and it fell.

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